

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 and cancels claims 3, 4 and 7-9. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1, 2, 5 and 6.

Claims 1-4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As indicated above, claims 3, 4 and 9 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 3, 4 and 9 is rendered moot. Amendments were made to the remaining claims 1 and 2 to more clearly recite a machine which is an accepted statutory class of patentable subject matter under 35 USC §101. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to recite a statutory machine (apparatus) as illustrated in Fig. 1 including an input unit 14, a display unit 12, a storage unit 11, and an execution unit 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murren (U.S. Patent No. 7,346,921); and claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murren in view of Bowman (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,242). As indicated above, claims 3, 4 and 7-9 were canceled. Therefore, the above rejections with respect to claims 3, 4 and 7-9 are rendered moot.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 3, 4 and 7-9 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 3, 4 and 7-9 are taught or suggested by Murren or Bowman. The cancellation of claims 3, 4 and 7-9 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve

their right to pursue the subject matter as set forth in claims 3, 4 and 7-9 in a continuing application.

The above noted rejections with respect to the remaining claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are not taught or suggested by Murren or Bowman whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to recite that the present invention is directed to An apparatus and a method implemented in the apparatus for pointing an action attribute of an electronic application system which performs a process concerning an application from one of applicant terminals targeted to applicants such as residents or enterprises by using actions representing individual process businesses necessary for proceeding with the process concerning the application, action components representing individual business factors constituting each of the process businesses and having a nested structure and programs for execution of the business factors.

According to the present invention the action attribute pointing apparatus for electronic application system includes a storage unit for storing an action attribute file including component name correspondence information for making the correspondence between an action name and at least one action component name and defining a first execution order of the action

components when the action name corresponds to plural action component names, further making the correspondence between the action component name and plural nested action component names and defining a second execution order of the nested action components, and program name correspondence information for making the correspondence between the action component name and a program name assigned to the program to specify the program.

Further, according to the present invention, the action attribute pointing apparatus for electronic application system further includes a display unit for displaying definition information concerning the component name correspondence information and the program name correspondence information stored in the storage unit, an input unit for inputting the definition information concerning the component name correspondence information and the program name correspondence information, an execution unit for retrieving the component name correspondence information stored in the storage unit using the action name obtained from the application received from the applicant terminal as a key to specify the action component names and the execution order corresponding to the action name, retrieving the program name correspondence information stored in the storage unit using the specified action component names as keys to specify the program names corresponding the action component names, and executing the programs identified by the specified program names in order of the specified first execution order and the specified second execution order, and a control unit for making the display unit display a screen for updating the definition information concerning the component name correspondence information

stored in the storage unit, when at least one of the first execution order and the second execution order is changed, receiving update information for updating at least one of the first execution order and the second execution order from the input unit, and updating the component name correspondence information based on the received update information without updating the program name correspondence information.

Thus, as per the above the present invention provides a structure of the action attribute file which includes the component name correspondence information 21 and the program name correspondence information 22. See Fig. 2.

According to the present invention, the component name correspondence information defines the correspondence between the action and the action component names and can define the nested structure of the action. (See Fig. 3 and the equations starting from page 17, line 16 of the Specification). These equations correspond to the component execution sequence information in the component name correspondence information (see Fig. 2). As shown in Fig. 3, this Action AAA has a nested structure (layered structure). Action 4 corresponds to the nested actions: Actions 4-1 to Action 4-3. In the equations, Action 4 is expressed by "nest1" on the fourth line and nest1 is described on the last four lines. Further, in the equations, each action component name is attached with suffix "@XXX", which corresponds to component execution form information. The program name correspondence information defines the correspondence between the action component name and the program name.

Further, the present invention can define the action having a nested structure and can change the execution order of the action components by updating the component name correspondence information only. Such definition make is easy to recognize the nested structure of the action components. When the contents of the action is changed, added or deleted, the operator can easily know where and how the operator should change the information in the action attribute file. In the present invention, the action attribute file can define the relation between action components in the nested structure. The action component may correspond to the nested action components.

The above described features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by Murren or Bowman whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Murren provides various terminals with various security controls. Murren shows the "multi-layer application/domain architecture" 110. As shown in Fig. 2, by selecting at least one logic for each layer, the various security controls can be accomplished. Each layer includes plural logics. However, there is no relation between logics belonging to different layers and no nested structure is disclosed. Accordingly, the features of the present invention as recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Murren.

The above described deficiencies of Murren are not supplied by Bowman. Bowman is merely relied upon for an alleged teaching of the component execution sequence information and the component execution form information. However, at no point is there any teaching or suggesting in Bowman of the component name corresponding information and the program name correspondence information as now recited in the claims.

Thus, each of Murren and Bowman fails to teach or suggest a storage unit for storing an action attribute file including component name correspondence information for making the correspondence between an action name and at least one action component name and defining a first execution order of the action components when the action name corresponds to plural action component names, further making the correspondence between the action component name and plural nested action component names and defining a second execution order of the nested action components, and program name correspondence information for making the correspondence between the action component name and a program name assigned to the program to specify the program as recited in the claims.

Further, each of Murren and Bowman fails to teach or suggest a display unit for displaying definition information concerning the component name correspondence information and the program name correspondence information stored in the storage unit, an input unit for inputting the definition information concerning the component name correspondence information and the program name correspondence information, an execution unit for retrieving the component name correspondence information stored in the storage unit using the action name obtained from the application received

from the applicant terminal as a key to specify the action component names and the execution order corresponding to the action name, retrieving the program name correspondence information stored in the storage unit using the specified action component names as keys to specify the program names corresponding the action component names, and executing the programs identified by the specified program names in order of the specified first execution order and the specified second execution order, and a control unit for making the display unit display a screen for updating the definition information concerning the component name correspondence information stored in the storage unit, when at least one of the first execution order and the second execution order is changed, receiving update information for updating at least one of the first execution order and the second execution order from the input unit, and updating the component name correspondence information based on the received update information without updating the program name correspondence information as recited in the claims.

Therefore, since each of Murren and Bowman fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims, taking these references individually or combining these references in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejections of the claims is respectfully requested

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-9.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-4888 (500.42920X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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